

**Cc:** Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]  
**To:** Valentine, Julia[Valentine.Julia@epa.gov]  
**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 5:17:48 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Data tonight

Headline: EPA Statement on Colorado data from Gold King Mine Release

Date: 8.12.15

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From: Valentine, Julia  
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:10 AM  
To: Harrison, Melissa  
Cc: Hull, George  
Subject: Re: Data tonight

I'm all set to send it from HQ.

Need a headline when you're ready. Date line?

Sent from USEPA iPhone

> On Aug 13, 2015, at 1:08 AM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:  
>  
>  
> Team-below is the final statement for tonight. This needs to be:  
>  
> 1. Posted online as an update to the Gold King Mine site  
> 2. Congressional/elected notification  
> 3. Press release to HQ and regions  
> 4. Please post the original data charts I sent to George Hull.  
>  
> PLEASE CONFIRM WITH ME THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFO AND ARE PREPARED TO  
FULLFIL YOUR DUTY.  
>  
> To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, water quality  
samples were collected at numerous intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. Samples were taken prior to  
the plume's arrival to establish a baseline for water quality comparisons. Each surface water sample was  
analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.  
>  
> Analysis now shows that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the  
Durango municipal water intake has returned to pre-event water quality levels. These results are based  
on validated sampling data collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015.  
>  
> EPA has shared this data with state, local and tribal officials in Colorado to assist them in their  
decisions regarding the on-going use of water resources. EPA plans to continue to monitor, analyze and  
share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.  
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> 

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From: Purchia, Liz  
> Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:48 AM  
> To: Harrison, Melissa; Mylott, Richard  
> Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne;  
Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas  
> Subject: Re: Data tonight

>

> Messaging and data are still coming for tonight.

>

> Melissa will be sharing them shortly.

>

> It still will need to be posted and sent out to media.

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> From: Harrison, Melissa

> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:27 PM

> To: Mylott, Richard

> Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas

> Subject: Re: Data tonight

>

> George-below is the language. This should be an easy clear with the EOC as I believe your contacts have been in the loop. I'm just waiting on the data charts in PDF.

>

>

> Interpretation of Water Metal Concentrations

>

> EPA initiated a sampling effort on Aug. 5, 2015, to assess the impacts of the blowout at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colo. Surface water and sediment samples were collected at intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. At a number of sampling locations, samples have been taken before the contaminant plume reached a sample location and can be used to characterize baseline metals concentrations, to identify the arrival of the plume and monitor the return of river concentrations to baseline conditions. Surface water samples have been analyzed for 24 metals, which include arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and others. Those sampling efforts are ongoing. The data represent validated results of samples collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015. Although sediment sampling has also commenced, at this time the data analysis and validation are not complete and, therefore, the results will not be presented.

>

> The determination of lingering impacts to the river is based upon a comparison of detected metal concentrations after the plume passed a sampling location with site-specific background concentrations. Background values were defined for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake.

>

> Any detection that exceeded background levels was compared with screening criteria for recreational water use. In addition, they were compared to Colorado's criteria for agricultural use, including both ingestion by livestock and irrigation uses.

>

> Cement Creek and Animas River from Silverton to the Southern Colorado Boarder

>

> Surface water quality samples were collected from nine locations in Colorado. Two of these were from Cement Creek and seven were from the Animas River. These locations were selected because an historical dataset already exists for these locations. Therefore, they will serve as good indicators of conditions before, during and after the event.

>

> The graphs identify trends in concentrations of some of these metals that have been detected historically in both Cement Creek and the Animas River. Each graph shows the trends in those concentrations between Aug. 5 and Aug. 9, 2015. Historical concentrations are not available for the 32nd Street Bridge location. The blowout occurred late in the morning on Aug. 5, 2015. The contaminant plume moved downstream at approximately four miles per hour. The trends over time and location represent the movement of the contamination of the water in the Animas River and show the recovery of the river at those same locations.

>

> The comparison of river metal concentrations after the plume has moved past these sampling points to

pre-event conditions demonstrated that water quality returned to pre-event conditions. At this time, the sediment has not been fully analyzed nor have the data been validated.

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> From: Mylott, Richard  
> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:53 PM  
> To: Harrison, Melissa  
> Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula  
> Subject: RE: Data tonight

>  
> I'll send it just to be safe. If addresses get hit twice, then ok.

>  
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Harrison, Melissa  
> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:49 PM  
> To: Mylott, Richard  
> Cc: Davis, Tim; Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew; Smith, Paula  
> Subject: Re: Data tonight

>  
> Rich and Paula you guys can work together to decide how you want to distribute.

>  
> Melissa Harrison  
> Press Secretary  
> EPA  
> Office: (202) 564-8421  
> Mobile: (202) 697-0208  
> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

>  
>  
>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:42 PM, Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov> wrote:

>>  
>> Ok. In terms of press, will you push from there using the R8 list we sent yesterday or should we send from R8.

>>  
>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Harrison, Melissa  
>> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:38 PM  
>> To: Davis, Tim  
>> Cc: Hull, George; StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Mylott, Richard; Distefano, Nichole; Vaught, Laura; Fritz, Matthew  
>> Subject: Re: Data tonight

>>  
>> +Laura, Nichole, Tom, Matt

>>  
>> Yes, proper notification will need to take place.

>>  
>>  
>> Melissa Harrison  
>> Press Secretary  
>> EPA  
>> Office: (202) 564-8421  
>> Mobile: (202) 697-0208

>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov  
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>>  
>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:32 PM, Davis, Tim <Davis.Tim@epa.gov> wrote:  
>>>  
>>> Good to know, Melissa - thanks!  
>>>  
>>> Do we have to inform congressionals tonight, as well? Just wanted to check on that.  
>>>  
>>> Thanks,  
>>> Tim  
>>>  
>>> -----Original Message-----  
>>> From: Harrison, Melissa  
>>> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:31 PM  
>>> To: Hull, George  
>>> Cc: StClair, Christie; Valentine, Julia; Purchia, Liz; Colaizzi, Jennifer C.; Smith, Roxanne; Davis, Tim  
>>> Subject: Re: Data tonight  
>>>  
>>> +Tim  
>>>  
>>> Thanks!  
>>>  
>>> Looks like we will likely just push out CO data. Working on final language and data sets.  
>>>  
>>> Will be in touch ASAP.  
>>>  
>>> Really can't thank this team enough for all you're doing to support us!  
>>>  
>>> Melissa Harrison  
>>> Press Secretary  
>>> EPA  
>>> Office: (202) 564-8421  
>>> Mobile: (202) 697-0208  
>>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:28 PM, Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov> wrote:  
>>>>  
>>>> Christy and Melissa,  
>>>> Per our phone call tonight, Julia is standing by if we need to send out to media that we are releasing sampling data. If that is the plan, we will need confirmation that it has been posted before we can send out.  
>>>>  
>>>> Also, Melissa, you said that I may need to sign off for the EOC. I'll alert Dana Tulis and Josh Woodyard who can give that approval. If I can't get them, then I'll sign off and we'll proceed forward and I'll explain it to them tomorrow. - George ( cell 202-631-6957).  
>>>>  
>>>> Sent from my iPhone